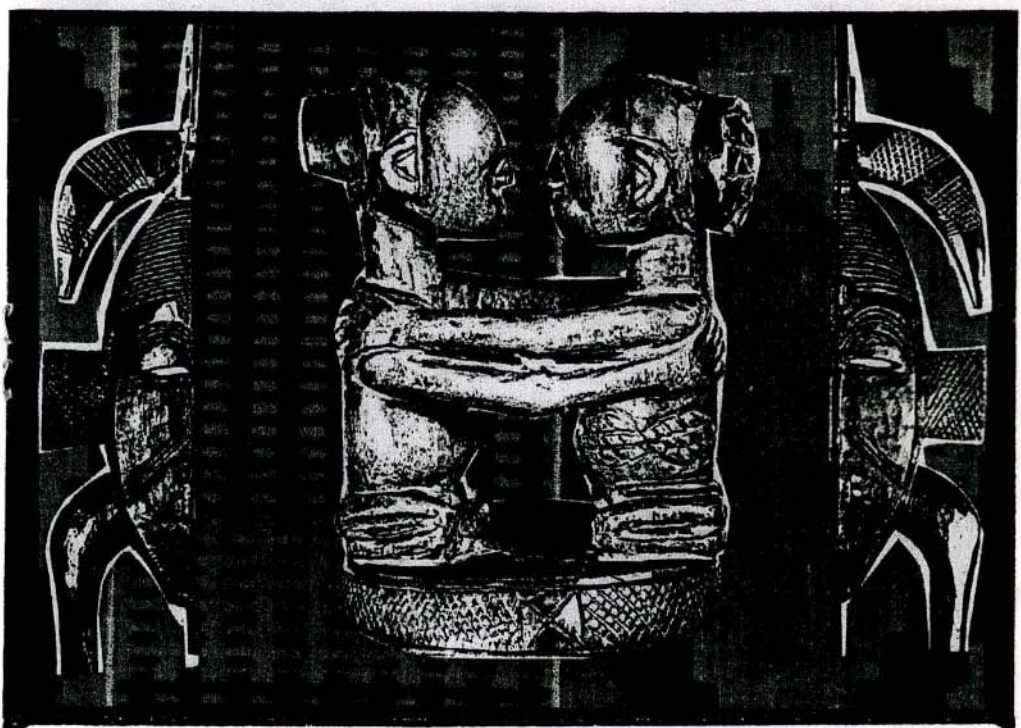
ARAMBE FLAME

VOLUME XXIV No. 5 May 2003



In This Edition:

Commentary: A Sign of Sickness; **Guest Commentary:** Spiked Head Count; **From Other Sources:** Dance Theatre's Mission, Harlem-base Media Company Battles AT&T and Other Corporations Over Cable Systems, 2nd All African Editors Forum, Reparations Campaign in Mississippi, Niger Government Considering Plan to Bring Governance to Grassroots, Shaky Economy Leading Africans in U.S. to Small Business Ownership, Medical Schools in Texas Make Big Profits from Prison "Care," Patriot Act II; **Announcements; Back In Time; Kuumba:** Some Straight'nin'

EDITORIAL POLICY

The HARAMBEE FLAME is the monthly newsletter of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization(Nebraska State Pen chapter). Ours is a pan-Africanist publication, meaning that we view all people of African descent as one African people, having certain basic interests in common. Also, the HARAMBEE FLAME attempts to be Africentric, in that, through study of the history, cultures, and traditional values of African people, we seek to have and cultivate an African way of looking at things.

The main purposes of the HARAMBEE FLAME are to stimulate and inform. We list "stimulate" first because, more than anything else, we want our readers to be moved to question their/your own ideas, lives, and the circumstances in which we live and to challenge those things that must be challenged in order for us to move from a condition of mental and spiritual servitude and physical dependence upon Caucasian institutions to a state of collective self-determination. Toward this purpose, we present commentaries, poems, etc. These do not necessarily represent the official positions of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization.

The HARAMBEE FLAME provides information because wise people want to know what's going on and because certain kinds of information can stimulate the mind, inspire people to want to act, and influence them to pursue proper understanding so that the actions they take will be as effective as possible. The main vehicle we use to provide information is our "From Other Sources" feature in which we make an effort to provide news about the problems we African people are confronted by and the steps we are taking to resolve them. In this feature, we try to provide coverage of the activities of African people and developments affecting us in the U.S., the nations of Africa, and elsewhere. In "Commentary," we offer analysis of and views about current events and developments.

We encourage you to send your comments, essays, poems, etc. to HARAMBEE FLAME; Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization; P.O. Box 2500; Lincoln, NE.; 68542-2500.

White planters and government officials recognized that the slavery regime could survive only with the most repressive and bestial force imaginable. (French)Plantation managers(in San Domingue) used a variety of tortures: forcing gunpowder into the anus or vagina of a slave and then blowing him/her up with a light--'to burn a little powder in the ass of a ***nigger****'.*

In 1651...the English Guinea Company, precurser of the Royal African Company, instructed a captain to barter liquor at Gambia River for a 'Cargo of ***negers*** *or Cattel' to be carried to Barbados.*

When asked if all men were created 'free and equal as the Declaration of Independence holds they are', a Louisiana slaveholder answered confidently: 'Yes. But all men, ***niggers*** *and monkeys aint'.*

Since the days of the civil rights, human rights, black power/black-is-beautiful, African liberation movements, back in the '60s and early '70s, there has been a backward shift in the consciousness of African people in this country. We can see this in the increase of African males and females who unashamedly align themselves with European politicians, academics, and others who have clearly anti-African agendas. Among the most public of these role models for mental slavery are: Clarence Thomas, Colin Powell, Condoleeza Rice, and Ward Connerly. These characters have plenty of company.

Other signs of this backward shift are: the increasing number of Africans who look past our own people for mates, who identify moving out of predominantly African neighborhoods with progress; the prevalence of "black" press organs that speak from an overtly Eurocentric perspective; the popularity of hair straighteners, blond dyes and wigs, and other tools of physical de-Africanization among African females; the quick willingness of African comedians, singers and rappers, actors, and other entertainers to degrade themselves and their people for cash and the amusement of Europeans.

The fact that "nigger"/"niggah" has shot up in our communities like some kind of noxious and uncontrollable weed

may be one of the surest signs that this backward shift in the consciousness of many Africans in this country is profound, approaching a kind of **mental illness** by which many of us come to have contempt for ourselves and for those who look like us.

The three italicized passages this commentary began with are taken from the following books, respectively: HOW CAPITALISM UNDERDEVELOPED BLACK AMERICA by Manning Marable, BLACK MAJORITY: NEGROES IN COLONIAL SOUTH CAROLINA FROM 1670 THROUGH THE STONO REBELLION by Peter H. Wood, and THE RULING RACE: A HISTORY OF AMERICAN SLAVEHOLDERS by James Oakes. These passages show the European-supremacist ideology("racism") at its most naked and make it plain that, in creating and using the term, "nigger," Europeans were defining African people as something less than human.

This last passage is from the 1991 book by Leon Bing, DO OR DIE, which is made up of interviews with Crips and Bloods in California.

*Like there was this fool, this enemy **nigger** from our worst enemy set, and he was with his wife and his baby. They was walkin' down there near Vermont, where he had no business bein'. He was slippin' and we caught him. We was in a car, all homies, and I was like 'Let's pop this dumb **nigger**, let's empty the whole clip in him'...I lit his ass up! I killed him--shot his baby in the leg--crippled his wife!*

This young African gang member sounds as if, at least at the time that this shooting went down, he felt a satisfying excitement. Was it any less satisfyingly exciting than 'to burn a little powder in the ass of a **nigger**' was to the French plantation owners?

-Editor

GUEST COMMENTARY

Spiked Head Count

[The following guest commentary has been edited for length]

Because I am a convicted felon serving a prison term, some people will think that this precludes me from writing about criminal justice and particularly about correctional services and/or parole. But I have some insights to offer.

Nebraska's Department of Correctional Services, at a 9.4% rate, has the fastest growing annual budget of any state agency. Between 1995 and 2003, the DCS budget mushroomed from 57.3 to 117.5 million dollars. (Omaha World Herald, July 28, 2003)

"Imprisonment," says Angela Y. Davis, a long-time activist and author of If They Come In The Morning, "has become the main means of addressing(or not addressing) social problems that are rooted in racism and poverty." ("Prison Abolition," from Black Genius, ed. Walter Mosley, W.W. Norton Co., 1999). Locally, the Nebraska Minority and Justice Task Force, established by the Nebraska Supreme Court, determined recently that blacks are disproportionately charged, convicted and imprisoned in Nebraska compared to whites..." (OWH, January 31, 2003).

Social scientists learned more than fifty years ago that crime rates are indelibly connected to the cyclical upturns and downturns in the capitalist economy. The U.S. Census Bureau reported in 1999 that there have been definite drops in the crime rate over the past thirty years. Improvements that had been occurring in the in the overall economic picture, social scientists explain, have inspired the decreasing crime rate.

Joel Dyer, author of Harvest of Rage, writes in The Perpetual Prisoner Machine (Westview Press, 2002) that "other periods marked by a robust economy, such as the 1950s, likewise experienced decreasing crime, without an increase in law enforcement or prison population.

Also relevant to why the trend to incarcerate continues despite drops in the crime rate is the matter of crime reporting by local and national news services. "We know," says Dyer "that the news business makes a lot of money by increasing its ratings and pick-up rates with sensationalized coverage of violent crime." As a direct result of the media cashing in on isolated incidents of crime, Nebraskans, like the rest of Americans, have come to perceive crime as a rampant social phenomenon while the facts refute the perception.

It was in the presidential race of 1988 that George Herbert Bush, or "George 41," showed other conservative prospective office-holders and incumbents how to cash in big time on the tough-on-crime sound bite. With the aid of the American news media, George 41 used a cheap shot, a convicted murderer named Willie Horton, who killed again while out of prison on an ill-advised furlough, to paint his opponent, Governor Mike Dukakis of Massachusetts, as an irresponsible leader who was "soft on crime."

No one took the time and effort to make a distinction between Horton and, say, an old convict who went to prison as a young man for **accidentally** taking a life in a hold-up. Thanks to the public's failure to make this distinction, the news media, and George 41, reformed offenders in prisons all across America are paying the price--along with the American tax-payer.

But we are after the reasons for the mushrooming of the DCS budget in the face of overall decreases in the crime rate. I watched as it happened. It began in the fall/winter of 1994. Former Governor/now U.S. Senator Ben Nelson wooed Ronald Bartee back to the Nebraska Board of Parole from some post with the U.S. government. It was evident that Bartee was directed by Nelson to supplant Ms. Ethel Landrum as the chairperson of the Board of Parole. Nelson was disgruntled with Landrum over politically controversial decisions the board had made under her leadership.

After Bartee supplanted Ms. Landrum as Chair, he set about revoking paroles with a vengeance. Parolees were brought back to Nebraska for revocation proceedings from as far away as Alaska for such infractions as "changing address

FROM OTHER SOURCES

Dance Theatre's Mission to Preserve and Perpetuate African Culture Endangered

"Dimensions Dance Theatre [in Oakland, Ca.] celebrates its 30th anniversary...May 3.

"The gala will include highlights from past programs, as well as premiere the final phase of 'From Africa to America' with Cuban pianist and composer Omar Sosa. Other guest artists include Venezuelan percussionist Gustavo Ovalles and gospel singer Sharon Henderson of the Oakland International Gospel Choir.

"'From Africa' traveled to Cuba in 'Between Shores' and to Zimbabwe in 'Shadows of Our Ancestors..Mudzima'. Now in this final segment the travelers have returned home to reflect on the Diaspora and what has changed since the seas parted and Africa's children were cast onto strange shores.

"DDT's mission speaks to the idea of art as a holistic way of life--a means to preserve and perpetuate African culture and life...

"Vaughan's[co-founder and artistic director, Deborah Vaughan] desire to preserve the culture has expanded over the last decade to include a desire to swap stories, because in her travels she has found that the unique Pan African experience African Americans are a part of is not shared throughout the hemispheres.

"'When I visited other countries, people didn't know each other's history. As political as Cuba is, people there weren't aware of the role artists played in Zimbabwe, how the mbira was banned by the Rhodesian government(similar to the way the drum was banned here)...

"DDT was invited into the historic Alice Arts Center as an anchor tenant, along with the Oakland Ensemble Theatre, the Oakland Ballet and Citicentre when the building was still to be renovated after the Loma Prieta earthquake

in 1989...

"Now Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown wants to expand his pet project, the Oakland School for the Arts, a school that serves many non-Oaklanders. So, DDT, along with many other smaller organizations...have to go--along with the many residents who live...[in] the building...The Alice Arts Center houses the largest concentration of black-run arts programs on the West Coast..."

-from "Dimensions Dance Theatre," page 6, April 30 SAN FRANCISCO BAY VIEW(San Francisco, CA.)

Harlem-based Media Company Battles AT&T and Other Corporations Over Cable Systems

"Black Education Network (BEN), a Harlem-based company that is developing programming networks representing the views and perspectives of the African American community, has filed suit in a Colorado federal court against AT&T Broadband, Comcast Corporation, and Daniels & Associates alleging civil rights violations, fraud, and misrepresentation....According to BEN President Michele Clark Jenkins, 'Beginning in 2000, we tried to purchase cable systems from AT&T and were not only invited into two bids but made it into the final round of both bids. The first time, we were nearly $100 million higher than the awarded bid. The second time, we were $42 million higher...but, as a final insult, after negotiations, they actually sold the system in the second bid for $242 million less than our bid...This refusal to sell to our group was clearly business as usual to exclude minorities from owning large blocks of cable systems even when they come to the table, as we did, with more money in hand than anybody else'...

"BEN's ownership is comprised of a diverse group of African Americans who, in partnership with educational institutions, church groups, and non-profits, have a vested interest in positive programming about African Americans. Through the use of proprietary technology, BEN will be distributing entertainment and educational programming direct to the viewer..."

-from "Black Education Network Files Discrimination Suit

Against AT&T," page 2A, May 1-7 JACKSON ADVOCATE(Jackson, MS.)

2nd All African Editors Forum

"Over one hundred media executives from most nations on the continent convened recently in Midrand, outside of Southern Africa's largest metropolis, for the second All African Editors Forum. The agenda was to see how African media could report political and developmental initiatives like the African Union(AU) and the New Partnership for African Development(NEPAD)...

"Pres. Mbeki [of So. Africa] addressed media editors on both days of the conference. He is currently president of the African Union...He told media editors, 'You must proceed from the presumption that you were African before you were journalists, and despite your professions, you are Africans still'.

"Pres. Mbeki...said that reporting should be critical, but sympathetic to Africa and told from an African perspective.

"'The West has been reporting its biases of Africa for years. Many African journalists are trained in the West, and they bring home these biases, which are reflected in their writing about other African countries', he said...

"Most editors did not object to the notion that they were Africans first, journalists second. One working committee at the editors' conference noted the need for an African version of the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television network, which serves the Arab nations of the Middle East. Pres. Mbeki endorsed the proposal...

"'We have to get African reporting out there on the continent, and then we can tell the African story from our point of view to the world...', said Phil Molefe, editor-in-chief of the South African 24-hour satellite news service, SABC Africa."

-from "Mbeki Challenges Media to 'Report Africa', pages 14 and 33, May 6 THE FINAL CALL(Chicago, IL.)

Reparations Campaign in Mississippi Looking to Churches

As the struggle continues, the Mississippians For Reparations(MFR) Committee wants to 'Let My People Know' the truth about the works in process toward securing 'The Debt' and ways every Mississippian can 'pull together' to expedite the day when...just restitution of reparations [is put into place] for the 'crimes against humanity' perpetrated and perpetuated against Africans in America since circa 1619...

"Through our 'Faith in Our Struggle Campaign' MFR wants to recruit two thousand Black churches and civic organizations to join the Millions of Mississippians For Reparations Movement and have issued a Resolution of Support for MFR to each church and/or civil group in the next six months. MFR will continue co-hosting a series of Town Hall Meetings and Cultural Awareness Forums to increase awareness to the continuing struggle of Africans in America to secure the debt due to us from America for the enslavement...of our ancestors and for punitive damages for the inhumane treatment we have endured during and since our enslavement..."

-from "Harambee for Reparations: Let My People Know the Truth," page 12 A, May 1-7 JACKSON ADVOCATE

Niger Government Considering Plan to Bring Governance to the Grassroots

"Prime Minister Hama Amadou has recommended a decentralization of the administration with a view to restoring 'a sense of initiative and collective responsibility at the grassroots'. Addressing traditional chieftains at their annual conference, Mr. Amadou recalled that Niger has, since the beginning of the last century, been governed under a centralized system in which the State is omnipresent. He said decentralization grants communities at grassroots level the freedom to manage local affairs in total democracy and maintained that decentralization by no means implied a disappearance of the central State, much less the end of traditional authority. He called for a redefinition of the role of traditional rulers in

the new context of decentralization, with emphasis on the preservation of national unity, territorial integrity, public security and the rule of law...Parliament adopted a bill last year for the creation of 265 councils nationwide following a series of consultations with village and tribal representatives."

-from "Prime Minister Advocates Decentralization," page 15, April 29 THE FINAL CALL

Shaky Economy Leading Africans in U.S. to Small Business Ownership

"Due to the dismal economy Americans have faced for nearly three years, more African Americans are turning to small business ownership to secure their economic futures...

"As of last month, the unemployment rate rose to 6 percent, which accounts for 8.8. million unemployed individuals. The unemployment rate for blacks...is currently at 10.9 percent...

"'As a result of the current labor situation, many workers have become disillusioned and frustrated with job searches that can take up to a year to actually result in employment...At the end of last year, black-owned businesses totaled well over a half-million. Black business development continues to grow at a rate higher than the U.S. average'.

"Winn[Rhonda Winn, owner of cypherSDG.com] maintains that an additional tool for entrepreneurs is the Internet, as it provides unlimited exposure with minimum start-up costs. In many cases, individuals can continue to search for full-time employment or work part-time while operating a small business...

"CypherSDG.com is a new media, Internet-based design firm, specializing in the needs of entrepreneur targeting an urban audience. The web site contains a regularly updated portfolio of completed projects for a diverse client base, including hip-hop record labels and online magazines. The site also features small business tools and resour-

ces..."

-from "Number of Black-Owned Small Businesses Continue to Grow Despite Economy," page 8, May 8 THE OMAHA STAR (Omaha, NE.)

Medical Schools in Texas Make Big Profits from Prison "Care"

..."The Houston chapter of the ACLU did a review of the Texas prison medical system and found that many medical 'professionals' working in the system do not have licenses to practice medicine, and many had actions against them for gross medical malpractice...

"In 1995, the Texas prison medical program was contracted out to two Texas universities: University of Texas Medical Branch and Texas Tech Health Science Center. A 1998 audit of the new 'managed care' system...noted that 'health care for prisoners is costing less'. It also noted that 'large profits by the medical providers' and 'quality of care for inmates' raise concerns...In 1997, the two medical schools realized a $25 million profit from the contract...

"That same audit...pointed out that '67 percent of the inmate deaths involved an improper level of care'. In addition, it also pointed out that eight doctors and three nurses were under licensing restrictions by the state's medical boards, and that both universities failed to check references, graduation records, and residency completions for doctors and nurses..."

-from "Medical Neglect in Prisons Linked to Need for Universal Health Care," pages 1-4, ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS (Houston, TX.)

Patriot Act II: More Police-State Tactics

"...the USA Patriot Act effectively criminalized many forms of direct action as 'domestic terrorism'...[which] is legally defined as any act occurring primarily in the US, which affects governmental decision making, endangers human life and breaks any state or federal law...Attorney General John Ashcroft's Department of Justice has been dealing

(Cont. on page 16)

without permission," "changing job without permission," etc. By the winter of 1995, maybe as many as a quarter to a third of DCS prisoners were parole violators, many of these reincarcerated over minor special-conditions violations or misdemeanor law violations, which could have been addressed easier and cheaper with prison alternatives such as monitoring bracelets, treatment and counseling programs, and/or intensification of parole.

Before Ben Nelson moved on to Washington, D.C., he left in his wake as conservative a board of parole as there ever could be. The Nebraska Unicameral needs to take notice that the public has been duped, manipulated into believing that crime is a rampant phenomenon. Profiteering news agencies and power-seeking politicos, who really know the truth(or should), have just hopped on and are riding the wave instead of providing needed innovative leadership.

Projections have it that Nebraska's prison population will top 5,000 by 2006. With the current Board of Parole in place, that projection is either very likely or very likely too low.

The Unicameral needs to take away some of the Board of Parole's discretion. It should leave the board no option but to use prison alternatives for substance abusers, minor special-conditions incidents, and non-violent misdemeanors. This is the only way to prevent the Board of Parole from being used to spike the prison head count and thereby making it possible for conservative politicos to extort Nebraskans for more tens of millions of dollars to build yet another prison.

-Nathaniel Deckard(Thawabu)

[Thawabu is a member of the prison chapter of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization. He is serving time due to parole revocation]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Editor's note: One of our supporters recently provided us with an edition of a relatively new magazine, NEWSAFRICA. Acting on our request, he retrieved the magazine's mission statement from the internet. It follows.]

NewsAfrica is set up to serve the news and information needs of Africa and Africans in the Diaspora. It also provides news and intelligence on the continent to the international business community. The project fills a vacuum that leaves Africa as the only continent without an English continental weekly magazine or daily newspaper serving the needs of the people at home and abroad. The international media have tended to ignore the continent and its potentials in their coverage. When they do, the only Africa they tend to present to the outside world is one of famine, wars, poverty, crime and instability.

The enormous potentials of the continent are ignored. As a result, Africa has ended up with a negative image, which has contributed to its being shunned by international investors. Also, in a world in which the power of public opinion drives policy, Africa has no platform for presenting its viewpoint. Moreover, Africans in the Diaspora do not have access to authoritative news and intelligence on developments in the continent.

The mission is to have an African media group, of the same standard as the world's leading media, reporting Africa for Africans and the world. The social goal is to create a vehicle for the use of information as a resource for the development of the continent. NewsAfrica, our flag project, is a news publication--strong in politics, business and back of the book subjects like arts, sports, environment and women's affairs. With a strong editorial team and correspondents in almost all African capitals, America, Europe and Asia, we cover Africa from a complete perspective.

The address for the AfricaNews office in Nigeria is: Suite B6; 3/10 Military St; Onikan, Lagos; Nigeria. The address in Britain is: 321 City Road; London EC1V 1L; United Kingdom.

The state prison chapter(14th & Pioneers Blvd., Lincoln) of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization will be holding its annual awards program on Saturday, July 26th., from 5-8 p.m. More information will be provided in the June HARAMBEE FLAME. If you have questions, call (402) 479-3379.

BACK IN TIME

Paul Cuffe..., in spite of slavery and all of its injustices between the period of 1779 and 1818, was actively involved in Black economic development.

> *Cuffe learned the industry of shipping and sailing. He owned six ships, transported several thousand Africans to their homeland, contributed to many worthwhile causes, and challenged the American judicial system on whether African Americans should pay taxes when they were not allowed to vote...*

In Philadelphia, in the 1800s, African Americans had accumulated $250,000 worth of assets and owned two insurance companies...In 1840, Cincinnati's total wealth of African Americans living in that city was $109,000. In New York City in that same year the total wealth was $854,000...

As early as 1853, an economic convention took place in Rochester, New York. Martin Delaney was involved in much of the coordinatin of this conference and the slogans "Buy Black" and "Double Duty Dollars" began at conventions like this...In 1865,...the African American community had accumulated $50,000,000 in assets...

Within that...year of 1898, one of the largest Black insurance companies, Mutual Insurance, was founded in Durham, North Carolina...The founders of North Carolina Mutual were John Merrick, a barber who had no formal education and Dr. Aaron McDuffy-Moore, a Black physician. This was an excellent combination an it reinforced the values taking place in Durham where there was no division between the haves and the have nots...This combination of John Merrick and Dr. Moore went on to develop the Mechanics and Farmers Bank in 1908 and invested funds in North Carolina Central College.

Source: BLACK ECONOMICS: SOLUTIONS FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT by Jawanza Kunjufu

SOME STRAIGHT'NIN'

we know Malcolm X was cut down
in the Audubon in '65
but what if yet today he were still alive
still droppin' the science of nationalism
still makin' it plain and keepin' it real
bein' the "Omowale" he had been named and had become
one who had come home to his African self
like Garvey before him
live and uncut
do you think Omowale would be silent
and just be sittin' on his butt
while comedians who look like us
perform like house-negro clowns
in stand-up routines
puttin' our sistahs down
makin' jokes out of slavery
mockin' our struggles of the here and now
sayin' just any fool-ass thing
and political boys wrapped in our skin
actin' as the bush-league president's men
to rally 'round his flag
as a war of laser-guided
smart-bomb terrorism is unfurled
unleashed against people of color in a world
where any people with brown hue
can get targets on their backs
and be enemies-for-the-month
or however long an oval office or pentagon
decides the games should go on
do you think Omowale would have nothin' to say
about these slaves in their master's house
and these singers and rappers sellin' out
for jewelry, limos, and fame
collectin' the money
but dodgin' their share of the blame
for the chaos and death
their lyrics have helped to maintain
and their life-styles promote
while young brothas on the block

burn the time off the clock
singin' "pimpin' aint easy"

do you think Omowale would'nt know
that fat meat is greasy
and wouldn't have somethin' in store
for those of us who been scandalous
betrayin' our people full-speed ahead
thinkin' we safe cuz a body is dead
as if six feet of dirt could keep a spirit from risin'
and a casket could hold back some straight'nin'
from things that be twisted
some of us got to be foolin' ourselves
and bankin' on fiction
like when the come-around come down
we gonna know who to call
but "ghost busters" was just a movie
we can be made to pay a price in real life
as it is, some of us livin' on borrowed time
with the interest on the loan risin' fast
but we thinkin' our game is so cold
we can't be made to take the heat
and don't believe a hard head makes for a soft ass
in the meantime, the backlash
of these acts of betrayal are gatherin'
and the rats among us will be scatterin'
scurryin' for cover when the storm clouds come
Omowale's spirit might send thunder
no tellin' where the lightnin' might come from
and some won't know a dark day from night
when the lightnin' and thunder strike
fools be confused so quick by darkness
and so easily blinded by light
they think they got a hold on smartness
but be missin' things in plain sight
and even with their eyes wide open
they won't see the signs of the spirits creepin'
cuz they're so blind, they might as well be sleepin'
like they're sleepin' now
zombies in a trance
wearin' shackles like gold jewelry
that's 24-carat fake turnin' green
as they get crammed in a traffic jam

of nothin' comin' to sleepers
but nightmares masqueradin' as dreams
in the thick of a night
where players will get pimped
and pimps played
by all these cold-blooded things that were done
when the lights weren't on.

-Mondo

.....

FROM OTHER SOURCES

out a new piece of legislation...called the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003, better known as Patriot II... The US populace only learned about Patriot II after someone in the Justice Department leaked it to the Center for Constitutional Rights, a progressive legal organization that fights for civil liberties.

"The first Patriot Act included provisions that required most sections to be reauthorized by Congress in five years. Patriot II doesn't have any such clauses...In fact, Patriot II makes all of the first act's provisions permanent as well...Patriot II makes it legal to strip US citizens of their citizenship if they...are suspected of being terrorists...Under the proposed legislation, the feds could acquire full access to anyone's banking, transportation, medical, telephone, consumer credit and utility records. And they would not need a warrant to do so. They would only need to swear that they were doing their jobs and enforcing federal law...

"Under Patriot II, folks could face five to ten years in prison for encrypting their email. It would be illegal to use encryption to conceal any piece of incriminating evidence. This encryption crime charge is not even contingent on a charge or suspicion of terrorism. If any activist is convicted of any crime, such as participating in an act of civil disobedience, and they encrypted any plans for it on their email, they could arguably face an additional five years in prison..."

-from "Patriot II: Are You a Terrorist," pages 12 and 13, May-June EARTH FIRST(Tucson, AZ)

HARAMBEE AFRIKAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION CREED

Together we seek to know that which is us, to expand our collective consciousness of who we are and whence we come. We exalt in the fact that Africans are beautiful in our own right, rather than at the expense of any other group of people. And in the true spirit of the Swahili word, "harambee," we promote the idea that cultural awareness is germane to human growth.

NGUZO SABA

Umoja - Unity
Kujichagulia - Self-determination
Ujima - Collective Work and Responsibility
Ujamaa - Cooperative Economics
Nia - Purpose
Kuumba - Creativity
Imani - Faith

HARAMBEE AFRIKAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Alaga(Chairman - Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa

Eso/Alakoso Asha(Sgt.-at-Arms/Chairman of Cultural Affairs Committee) - Michael Carr

Olotu Eko(Education Chairman) - Chuma Akinlowan

Eleto(Administrative Chairman) - unfilled

Akapo(Treasurer) - John "Preacher" Bolden

Akowe(Secretary) - Todd Adams

Akewi(Librarian) - unfilled

HARAMBEE FLAME EDITOR

Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa